

ML-1,229
 S-943,731

NOV 2 1967

150 Penn Students Hold Sit-In Against CIA, Dow Recruiters

Members Of Frat Defy War Critics

A score of University of Pennsylvania students staged a sit-in Wednesday in an attempt to keep would-be applicants away from recruiters for the CIA and the Dow Chemical Co. About 150 students filled the third-floor hallways of Logan Hall, at 36th and Spruce sts., protesting the recruiters' presence on the campus, while another 20 students—members of Kappa Sigma fraternity—stood nearby and threatened to wade into the crowd and start swinging.

University officials said the antiwar protesters were not all Penn students, that some were members of the Vietnam Week Committee, which staged a number of demonstrations earlier this month against U. S. involvement in Vietnam.

SIT ON FLOOR

About 10 protesters stepped into the Dow office and sat on the floor. The CIA office door, adjoining Dow's, was closed and no one entered.

Several fraternity members stepped over the protesters and spoke to the Dow recruiter, although none signed any job applications.

While no violence broke out, several campus police stood by.

The protesters arrived at the recruiting offices shortly before 3 P. M. and left at 4:15 P. M.

According to a university spokesman, both Dow and the CIA have scheduled 13 interviews a day between Wednesday and Friday.

PRODUCE NAPALM

Charles Beck, the CIA interviewer, refused to comment on the demonstration. "We're here to talk to anyone who wishes to sign up and discuss career opportunities," Beck said.

Ronald Smith of Midland, Mich., the interviewer for Dow, noted that napalm was one of many products which his firm supplies to the Defense Department.

"We respect the right of people to protest peacefully against an action with which they disagree," declared Smith in a prepared statement. "However, our company has made the decision to continue to produce napalm and other materials as long as they are needed by our government."

The decision to blockade the interviews had been made three hours earlier at a noisy meeting in the cramped, third-floor hallway in Logan Hall which was marked by bitter exchanges between pro and antiwar students and an appearance by Dean of Men Gerald Robinson and Dean of Women Mrs. Alice Emerson.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Robinson read a two-paragraph statement of university policy on demonstrations which noted that while Penn affirms the concepts of freedom of speech and assembly "the university assumes that a spirit of reason will prevail in any demonstrations."

In accordance with that spirit, Robinson continued, demonstrators must refrain from blocking entry to buildings and from making speeches in hallways, stairwells or other similar places.

"Even though I don't want to," cautioned Robinson, "I'll have to haul you away if this policy is violated."

BOOS, APPLAUSE

The policy announcement was greeted with a few boos and catcalls by the antiwar group but was applauded by the dozen pro-U. S. policy students at the rear.

"I think you people are just a small minority and I'm sick and tired of listening to you," shouted John Striker, 25, a Wharton School graduate student. "You speak in favor of free speech and yet you want to prevent others from having job interviews."

"We're not against free speech," replied Robert Brand, 21, one of the leaders of the demonstration. "But you'll have to walk over us to get to the interviews."